

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following new paragraph after the title and before the subtitle "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION":

--This is a continuation application of copending application serial no. 09/994,231, filed November 27, 2001.--

Paragraph [0025] on page 9 was amended previously as follows:

[0025] FIG. 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional of the filter illustrated in Fig. 2 taken along lines ~~2-2~~ 3-3; and

Paragraph [0035] on page 13 was amended previously as follows:

[0035] FIG. 4 illustrates another typical form of a filter 18 having a mesh screen 34 attached to the frame 28 for further maintaining the filter medium 26 within the frame 28. In normal practice and as illustrated, the screen 34 is affixed on the downstream surface 24 of the filter 18. FIG. 4 further shows the gel 32 being applied to the filter 18 from a flexible tube or dispenser 36 as can be accomplished by squeezing the flexible container and extruding the gel out of the tube 34 36 and onto the filter 18 in a manner similar to the squeezing of toothpaste from a tube of toothpaste. Thus, the gel 32 may in preferred form be dispensed from the flexible dispenser, container or tube 36, as illustrated in FIG. 4, which may be squeezed to extrude the gel 34 32 therefrom in the preferred lined or striped configuration or in any other suitable fashion such as ribbons, beads, dots and the like. Furthermore, as illustrated in FIG. 4, in a preferred embodiment, the gel 32 is applied directly onto the surface of the filter medium 26 and, also, for convenience, it is applied from the flexible tube 34 36 onto mesh screen 34 on the downstream surface of the filter.